Tele-consultation sessions are also being broadcast centrally and received by CICs. Services like Internet browsing, E-mail are being provided by all CICs.

Stpl at Agartala

2594. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision has been taken to setup Software Technology Parks at Agartala;

(b) whether it is also a fact that STPI and State Government of Tripura have already come to an understanding in respect of the said Parks; and

(c) the progress made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal for setting up STP Centre at Agartala has been approved. Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has already been sent to Government of Tripura for their concurrence.

Benefit to private operators

2595. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that private operators have been given undue benefit to the tune of Rs. 719 crore in relation with the Village Public Telephone System, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Department spent more than 90 crore rupees to provide VPTs on behalf of private operators; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.